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Ministry of Education

EDUCATION MINISTER HONOURS LOCAL TEACHERS

VANCOUVER – SelfDesign Learning Community teachers Brent Cameron, Michael Maser and Dr. Kathleen Forsythe joined Education Minister Shirley Bond in the legislature today for an Education Week ceremony to recognize recipients of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

"These educators are an example of the high calibre of teachers in this province," said Bond. "Their use of technology to deliver education to students around the province has helped to contribute to the increase in student achievement in this province."

Cameron is a co-founder of SelfDesign Learning Community, a ministry-certified, Internet-based independent school. He is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of British Columbia researching and documenting SelfDesign as a new way of understanding human learning. For the past 25 years, he has been researching and developing learning-community projects with children and families as a basis for educational transformation. In 2006, he and his partner Barbara Meyer wrote "SelfDesign: Nurturing Genius through Natural Learning." Currently, Cameron is working in the United States with groups interested in SelfDesign.

Forsythe has been an educator in B.C. for the past 32 years and was a founding executive director of B.C.'s Knowledge Network. She has also worked with the Greater Victoria school district, North Island College and is currently a B.C. Agent for B.C. Independent Schools in China. Forsythe is currently working in the support of families with children on the Autistic Spectrum. She is a published poet, writer and an artist working in mixed media.

Maser has worked as an educator for the past 20 years, 12 of which have been spent working on projects for the Wondertree Foundation for Natural Learning. Michael co-founded and help direct the award-winning Virtual High Learning Community, developed as an alternative program for teens in Vancouver. Virtual High and holistic learning were the subject of Maser's master's thesis at Simon Fraser University in 1997. Michael has previously worked as a classroom teacher, professional writer, journalist, researcher and geologist.

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Brent Cameron, Dr. Kathleen Forsythe and Michael Maser are among 14 B.C. educators who received the 2006 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. They joined Education Minister Shirley Bond today to honour their achievement as part of Education Week 2007. During Education Week 2008, Premier Gordon Campbell will announce the first-ever recipients of the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence.

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